

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Montana State Office

5001 Southgate Drive, P.O. Box 36800

Billings, Montana 59107-6800

<http://www.mt.blm.gov/>

In Reply To:

7250 (923)P

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Information Bulletin No. MT-2004-009

To: Field Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Water Rights Training Course No. 1730-26 DD: 03/08/04

Nominations are now being accepted for Water Rights Training Course 1730-26 to be held June 7-11, 2004, at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Montana State Office.

Water rights are and will be a contentious issue in carrying out our natural resource management responsibilities on public lands. At our request, the BLM's National Training Center, cooperating with the Forest Service (FS), has developed, and will offer this training specific to the water rights issues in Montana.

This training is for BLM and FS personnel who work in the following program areas: water, range, wildlife, fisheries, realty, appraisals, acquisitions, minerals, wilderness, recreation, or planning. Special emphasis will be placed on water rights in the rights-of-way/special use permits and land exchange processes.

BLM Field Managers, BLM Associate Field Managers, FS Forest Supervisors, and FS District Rangers are encouraged to attend at least the first 2 ½ days of this training. During this time they will have an opportunity to learn from and discuss issues with representatives from the Montana Departments of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Office of the Solicitor (SOL), Office of the General Counsel (OGC) and Department of Justice (DOJ).

Register for this course on the National Training Center web site <http://www.ntc.blm.gov/> using Internet Explorer by **March 8, 2004**.

A block of rooms has been set aside at Quality Inn Homestead (406-652-1320). Room reservations need to be made no later than **May 5, 2004**. Reference group **BLM Water Rights** when making your reservations.

A draft agenda for the training course is enclosed for your information. For participants who attend the entire course, the course includes field exercises on Wednesday and Thursday.

Signed by: Martin C. Ott

Authenticated by: Merry Prestridge (MT923)

1 Attachment

1-Course 1730-26 - Montana BLM/FS Water Rights Course Agenda (1 p)

Distribution

SOMT-1

Asst. FM Harve-1

Asst. FM Glasgow-1

1730-26 – MONTANA BLM/FS WATER RIGHTS COURSE
BLM State Office, Billings, Montana June 7 – 11, 2003

Monday -- 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- **Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)**
 - Organization of DNRC (who to contact for what and where)
 - Post –1973 Appropriative Water Rights Process
 - Groundwater
 - State Reservation Process (one-time claims)
 - New Instream Leasing Program
 - Closed Basins
 - Adjudications
 - GIS/Database Applications and Demonstration

(There may an optional discussion session with the DNRC reps 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)

Tuesday -- 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- **Office of the Solicitor (SOL) Office of the General Counsel (OGC) & Department of Justice (DOJ)**
 - Roles of the SOL, OGC, and DOJ (including Role of Special Assistant for DOJ)
 - General comments/rebuttals referencing Montana DNRC
 - Adjudication process (including emphasis on the commitment of time and importance of data management and follow through.
 - What kind of testimonies and evidence is needed for an adjudication hearing
 - Water reservations for consumptive and instream uses
 - Stockwater Issues
 - Milk River case study
- **Breakout Sessions for Agency Specific Issues**
- **Water Related Rights-Of-Way/Special Use Permits (with agency specific breakout sessions for exercise that applies ROW/SUP concepts)**
- **Land Exchanges, Acquisitions, and Water Rights (With Exercise)**

Wednesday – 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (need to bring lunch and wear field attire)

- **Water Rights and the Planning Process**
- **Instream Flow Introduction**
- **Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) - Instream Flow Leasing**
- **Instream Flow – Agency Perspective**
- **Water Rights and Planning Process**
- **Field Exercise Part I**
 - Instream Flow Discussion, Techniques and Values
 - Water Source Inventory -- Field Techniques and Measurements

Thursday – 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (need to bring lunch and wear field attire)

- **Field Exercise Part II**
 - Water Source Inventory -- Field Techniques and Measurements (continued)

Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- **Field Exercises Wrap up and Synthesis**
- **Montana Water Court - Adjudication Enforcement**
- **How Can We Best Organize To Get Water Rights Work Accomplished**